

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application in view of the above amendments and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 17-19, 21-24, 26, and 28-35 are pending, with Claims 18, 24, 26, and 28-32 withdrawn from consideration. Claims 17 and 34 are amended without introducing any new matter.¹

The Office Action rejected Claims 17, 19, 21-23, and 33-35 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Legrand (International Publication No. WO 01/98613) in view of Ichinohe (U.S. Patent No. 4,663,901) and Mackey (U.S. Patent No. 6,467,232).

Even prior to the present amendments, Claims 17 and 34 each recited methods for fabrication of a plurality of vehicle drop glasses, and that the at least three predetermined contact points on a main face of the pane are the same for each of the plurality of vehicle drop glasses. Amended Claims 17 and 34 clarify the location of the at least three predetermined contact points. Specifically, amended Claims 17 and 34 recite the main face of the pane is a surface that faces toward an interior of a vehicle when the pane is installed, and the at least three predetermined points include two points on an upper sealing edge of the main face of the pane and a point on a lower edge of the main face of the pane close to where the support part is to be attached.

These amendments are fully supported by the disclosure as originally filed. For example, and not to be considered limiting, Figure 1 of the present application, reproduced below, illustrates three predetermined points P1, P2 and P3 on the surface (with concave

¹ Support for amended Claims 17 and 34 can be found at least at page 6, lines 16-28; and page 11, lines 33-36 of the specification as originally filed.

curvature) of a glass window 2 facing toward the interior of the vehicle. The points P1 and P2 are disposed on the upper edge (sealing edge) of the glass window 2, and the point P3 is on the lower edge of the glass window 2 close to the support part 3.

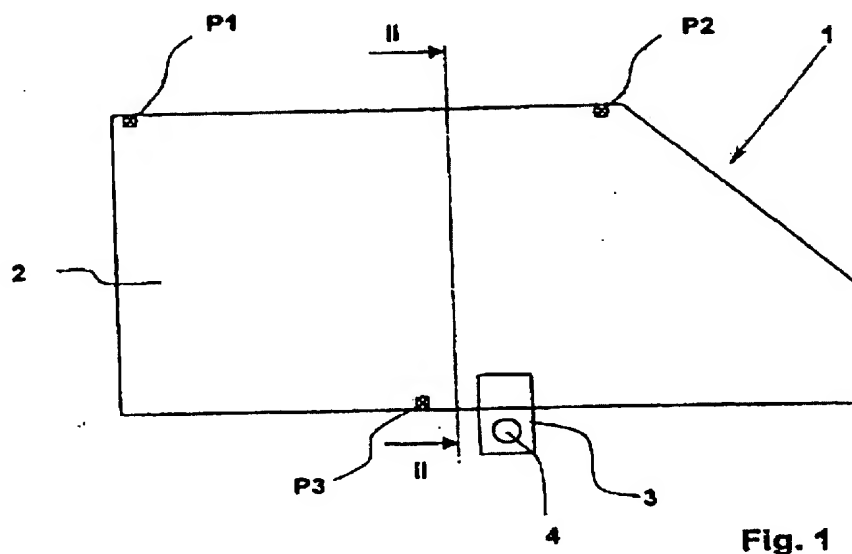


Figure 1 of the present application.

As discussed at, for example, page 6, lines 16 to 28 of the specification as originally filed, by locating two of the predetermined points in a region of the upper sealing edge of the pane and a third one of the predetermined points near the support part, the lateral tilt of the pane and the position of the upper edge of the pane in relation to the support part are predetermined. Thus, Amended Claims 17 and 34 further clarify that a lateral tilt of the pane and a position of the upper sealing edge of the pane in relation to the support part is predetermined.

Turning to the cited references, the Office Action acknowledges the combined teachings of Legrand and Ichinohe fail to disclose or suggest the features of (1) at least three predetermined contact points on a main face of a pane, or (2) the at least three predetermined

contact points on a main face of the pane are the same for each of the plurality of vehicle drop glasses. (See Office Action at page 5). The Office Action asserts the embodiment illustrated in Figure 4 of Mackey cures this deficiency, and identifies the ledge surface 460 as a plurality of contact points of device 434 which contacts the lower surface of pane 10. However, Mackey fails to disclose or suggest at least three contact points on a main face of the pane that are: (1) in the same location recited in amended Claims 17 and 34, and (2) are the same for each of the plurality of vehicle drop glasses.

One of the at least three predetermined contact points recited in Claims 17 and 34 is a point on a lower edge of the main face of the pane close to where the support part is to be attached. Although Figure 4 of Mackey illustrates a configuration in which the inner surface of each window 412 contacts the upper surface of a guide 442, this contact would occur at different contact points for each window. This difference in location of contact points on the inner surface of consecutive windows results from Mackey using a series of alignment stops on a *window edge* as reference datum points for each window. As shown in Figures 2 and 3 of Mackey, “[p]osts 38 provide support for the window 12 and alignment stops 40 establish datum points to position the window 12 at a desired position and orientation on the fixture 34.” (See Mackey at col. 3, ll. 38-40). By using alignment stops 40 points to establish datum points on a window edge, the points at which the inner surface 24 makes contact with the surface 50 of the guide 42 changes with each subsequent pane of glass. For example, as shown in Figure 3 of Mackey, reproduced below, the edge 14 of the window 12 can vary in location from window to window as denoted by the dotted lines 58 and 60. As a result, the point at which inner surface 24 contacts the surface 50 of the guide 42 would also change.

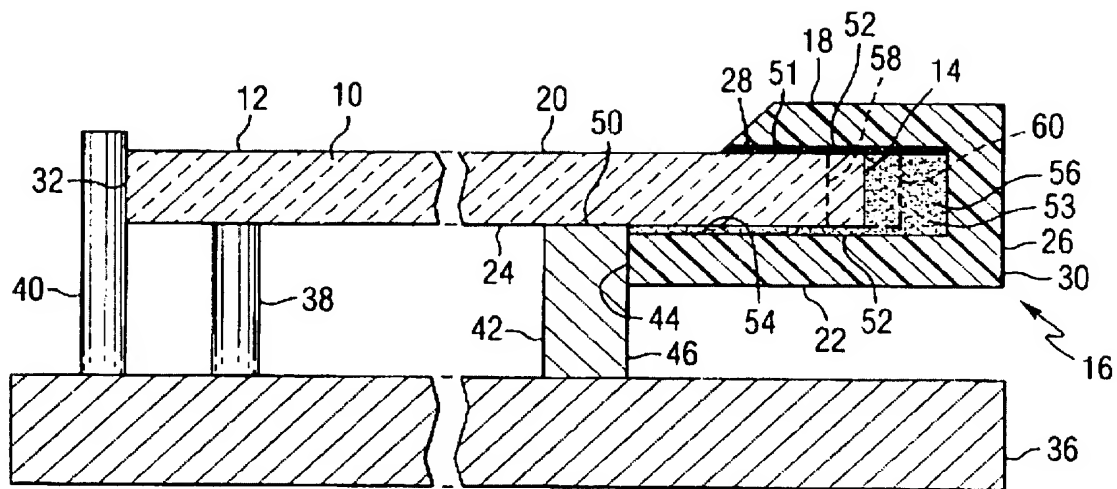


FIG. 3

Figure 3 of Mackey

The same would hold true for the guide 442 illustrated in Figure 4 of Mackey: “Guide 442 is positioned on base 436 at a predetermined location relative to stops 440 as discussed earlier with respect to guide 42, to correctly position member 416 on the marginal edge similar to but opposite the marginal edge 428 of the window 412 without using peripheral edge 414 of the window 412 as a guide.” (Mackey, at col. 5, ll. 42-47). Because the stops 440 on the *edge* of the window 412 are used as reference points, the *inner surface* of each window 412 would contact the upper surface of the guide 442 at different contact points with respect to previous or subsequent windows. By contrast, Claims 17 and 34 recite the at least three predetermined contact points on *a main face* of a pane are *the same for each pane*. The at least three predetermined contact points include two points on an upper sealing edge of the main face of the pane and *a point on a lower edge of the main face of the pane close to where the support part is to be attached*.

Accordingly, even the combined teachings of Legrand, Ichinohe and Mackey fail to disclose or suggest all of the features recited in Claims 17 or 34. It is submitted Claims 17, 34 and the claims depending therefrom are in condition for allowance.

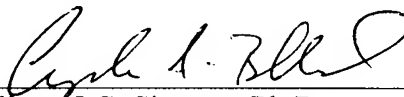
With respect to withdrawn Claims 18 and 24, it is respectfully requested that these claims be rejoined and allowed in accordance with MPEP § 821.04, as Claims 18 and 24 include the subject matter recited in Claim 17, which is believed to be allowable.

For the reasons discussed above, no further issues are believed to be outstanding in the present application, and the present application is believed to be in condition for formal allowance. Therefore, a Notice of Allowance for Claims 17-19, 21-24, 26, and 28-35 is earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner deem that any further action is necessary in order to place this application in even better form for allowance, the Examiner is encouraged to contact Applicants' undersigned representative at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,

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